(b) whether Government are also aware of prevalence of water borne diseases in these areas; and

(c) if so, the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) High levels of Flouride in ground water has been observed in certain parts of the districts of Kolar and Tumkur. The excess flouride in drinking water causes water borne diseases.

(c) Provision of safe drinking water is planned, financed and implemented by the State Governments. The Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) provides technical services to the State Governments in this endeavour. The CGWB has taken periodic monitoring of water quality. The data thus collected is made available to concerned State agencies. One pilot project of reverse osmosis based technology for treatment of flouride has also been installed recently at villages B.K. Halli and Rajavanthi in Pavagada taluk Tumkur district.

National Policy to share inter-state waters

286. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a National Policy guidelines to share inter-State water for development has been ordered;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of State Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (c) The draft National Policy Guidelines for Water Allocation amongst the States was considered by the National Water Resource Council (NWRC) in its 4th meeting held on 7th July, 2000. Keeping in view the divergent views expressed by some of the States the draft Guidelines were referred to the Working Group of Water Resources/ Irrigation Ministers of all States/Union Territories under the Chairmanship of Union Minister of Water Resources to achieve greater convergence and agreement on the Guidelines. During deliberations of the Working Group held on 24th September, 2001 it was felt that the issue of the guidelines needs a fresh re-look by the National Water Board in light of the

views expressed by the members in the meeting. The Working Group has made recommendation to NWRC accordingly.

Storage Capacity of Mullaperiyar Dam

287. SHRI S. NIRAIKULATHAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the height upto which water is presently allowed to be stored at Mullaperiyar Dam for use in Tamil Nadu.

(b) the actual height upto which water could be stored;

(c) the reasons for storing water to a low height; and

(d) by when water will be allowed to be stored to full height for the benefit of Tamil Nadu?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (c) The Mullaperiyar dam has full reservoir level of 152 feet. However, Keeping in view the safety of this dam in a meeting of Officers of the Central Water Commission. Government of Kerala and Tamil Nadu held in November 1979 it was recommended that the water level may not be allowed to go above 136 feet.

(d) The time by which water will be allowed to be stored to full height for the benefit of Tamil Nadu is linked to the implementation of strengthening measures suggested by the Expert Committee and the outcome of the case in the Supreme Court.

Modernization of Irrigation Projects in Orissa

288. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether some State Governments have sent proposals to modernize some irrigation projects in their respective State;

(b) if so, the State-wise details of the proposals which have come to his Ministry;

(c) whether any such proposal has come from the Government of Orissa;

(d) if so, the steps taken to consider any such proposal; and

(e) the amount sanctioned accordingly to modernize the irrigation projects?